

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2014 – 9:30 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

Public Meeting at:

AIRPORT PLAZA HOTEL
1981 TERMINAL WAY
RENO, NEVADA

A. INTRODUCTIONS. The regular meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was called to order. Roll call was taken, and quorum was determined:

Present: Angela Blair, Mary Bryant, Diana Cannon, Sue Chambers, David Coffey, David Frydman, Shirley Gaw, Ann Drendel-Haas, Joseph Holguin, Mary Ellen Horan, Will Jensen, Bethany Lafferty, Caroline Longre, Kate McCloskey, Kristine Minnich, Dorothy Pomin, Tammy Rieken, Tara Shek, Carrisa Tashiro, Karen Taycher, Rita Varney, and Robbin Vasquez

Absent: Sheila Allred, Pam Alvey, Laura Bruni, MaryAnn Demchak, Lisa Erquiaga, Ken Higbee, Susan Lacey, Brian Patchett, Tom Pierce, Ellen Richardson Adams, and Robin Renshaw

Staff: Marva Cleven and Kim Boles

Public: Holly Welborn-Hight, and Nancy Kuhles

B. SPECIFIC ITEMS FROM VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

No items were introduced at this time, and there were no public comments

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

The minutes of the November 12, 2013 meeting were reviewed and discussed. There were no changes or corrections offered at this time.

Motion: Sue Chambers moved to approve the minutes. David Coffey seconded the motion. The vote was called and the motion was carried without objection. Robbin Vasquez and Kristine Minnich abstained.

D. DUE PROCESS TREND REPORT

Marva Cleven reminded the committee had requested a trend report for due process cases at the previous SEAC meeting. This report is available online at http://www.doe.nv.gov/Commissions/SEAC/01142013_AdditionalDocs/ shows how many cases were filed by district and by issue as well as the current status. This report will be used as a baseline and update yearly to be presented to this committee.

E. SPECIAL EDUCATION REPRESENTATION ON STATE COMMITTEES*

Marva Cleven reported that at the last SEAC meeting, the committee voted to have MaryAnn Demchak, Chair of the Committee draft a letter requesting special education representation be on any work group, task force, etc. organized by the Department of Education, this letter would be then sent to Dale Erquiaga, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Marva asked that the Committee review the letter.

Motion: Will Jensen moved to approve the letter and to send it to Superintendent Erquiaga. Ann Drendel Haas seconded the motion. The vote was called and the motion was carried without objection.

F. MEDIATION MANUAL*

Marva directed the committee to three handouts in the packet for information and discussion. The first handout “Collaborative Problem Solving in Special Education” is an overview of collaborative problem solving in special education. Ideally all parents and schools should have access to this document. The second handout “Special Education Mediation in Nevada” is a frequently asked questions and answer document all about mediation. The third and final handout “Mediation Manual for Special Education” is designed to provide operational procedures for the Nevada Department of Education and the mediators on the special education mediation process, including intake procedures; appointment of mediators; as well as model forms and handouts. All three of these draft documents are available online at http://www.doe.nv.gov/Commissions/SEAC/01142013_AdditionalDocs/. A discussion followed Marva’s presentation on the handouts and the committee gave input and suggestions on all three documents. This feedback from the committee will be taken into consideration when finalizing these documents.

G. SPP/APR UPDATE*

Marva shared a document “Overview of Next 6-Year State Improvement Plan and Annual Performance Report” She shared with the committee that the State is required to update and submit this report on an annual basis. Upcoming attractions for the Committee this year will be a lot of conversation about the State Systemic Improvement

Plan (SSIP). The SSIP is a comprehensive, ambitious yet achievable plan for improving results for student with disabilities across key measures: performance on assessment, graduation with a regular diploma, and post school outcomes by focusing on enhancing the state's infrastructure and increasing the capacity of the Local Education Agencies to implement, scale up, and sustain evidence-based practices that improve results. This committee as a group will be setting targets that will then need to be met on an annual basis.

H. WAIVER RENEWAL UPDATE*

Marva asked the committee to read through a handout she provided entitled "Nevada ESEA Waiver Fast Facts - January 2014". The ESEA Waiver provides Nevada the authority to implement the State's ambitious education reform agenda, the Nevada School Performance Framework. The Framework is the State-developed plan to prepare all students for college and career readiness, raise the achievement of the lowest achieving students, and support effective teaching and school leadership.

Motion: Will Jensen moved that MaryAnn Demchak or Marva Cleven, State Special Education Director address the State Board of Education regarding End of Course assessments in conjunction with course grades being considered as satisfaction for new graduation requirements. Mary Bryant seconded the motion. The vote was called and the motion was carried without objection.

I. ISSUES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Items Introduced by Committee Members:

Mary Bryant shared a brochure highlighting the Path to Independence program. This two-year non-degree program is an inclusive postsecondary program for students with intellectual/developmental disabilities at the University of Nevada Reno.

Items Introduced by Visitors / Public Comments:

Nancy Kuhles informed the Committee that there was a Coalition Meeting on January 25th at 9:00 a.m. and have information forwarded to them.

J. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS*

College and Career Readiness Issues
Transition
Special Education Funding Structure
Educator Evaluation System under the Waiver
One Year Out Exit Survey

County Parent Advisory Groups
Inequities in Early Childhood Education
Foster Care

K. ADJOURNMENT*

Motion: Will Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting. Sue Chambers seconded the motion. The vote was called and the motion was carried without objection.

The next regular SEAC meeting will be held on March 11, 2014.